

NEEDED

A GUIDING HAND,
A WILLING HEART,
AND OPEN ARMS...

Adoption & Foster Care

Two Ways
to Share



...TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN A CHILD'S LIFE

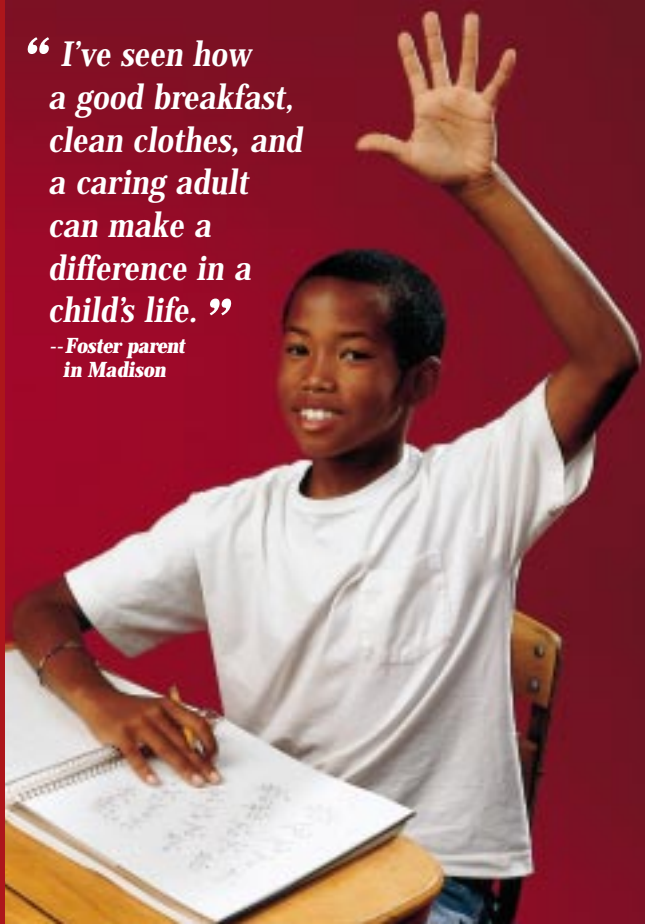
Kids need families and so do adults.

Do you take joy in family life - in watching a child blossom from just a little careful tending, in sharing your good fortune?

If you do, children in Wisconsin need you. They need sharing people to provide foster homes and adoptive homes. And once you take the first step, you'll discover how deeply you've needed them - to share your spirit and help you grow.

***“ I’ve seen how
a good breakfast,
clean clothes, and
a caring adult
can make a
difference in a
child’s life. ”***

***-- Foster parent
in Madison***



Two ways to share

You can open your home in two related but different ways - **foster care** and **adoption**. Wisconsin needs families for both.

- **A foster parent** provides a safe and healthy environment for one or more children on a temporary basis. The goal is to help the child while the child's family gets help for themselves. Once the family members are on their feet, the child can return. A foster parent is both a guiding hand and part of a team that ultimately helps a family stay together.
- **An adoptive parent** provides a safe and healthy environment for one or more children of all ages. Adoptive parents welcome children into their families on a permanent basis.

Being a foster or adoptive parent is not all roses and violins, but it can be deeply rewarding.

“Adoption changes who you are, and it’s a good change. Kids really need families.”
--Adoptive parent in Spooner





Who are the children that need you?

Right now, there's a pressing demand to help children. That includes children of all ages, siblings who need to stay together, and children with varying physical, emotional, or behavioral challenges.

Of course it's a challenge to care for children who may have symptoms ranging from mood swings to simple low-esteem, from physical handicaps to a medical condition. But, these are challenges that many people find rewarding.



“It doesn't take a whole lot to have a huge impact on a child's life.”

--Foster parent in Wisconsin Rapids

“We're dealing with the next generation here. If these kids are raised in positive, loving families, when they become adults they too will create positive, loving families.”

--Adoptive parent in Milwaukee





What does it take to be a foster or adoptive parent?

There are some misconceptions about who can adopt or become a foster parent. Let's set the record straight right now. You can be:

- An older adult
- Single or married
- Working outside the home
- Any race - or a different race from the foster or adoptive child
- With or without children of your own
- Experienced or not experienced with special needs children
- A renter, or a home or condominium owner.

It would also help if you have a good sense of humor plus a flexible lifestyle and family roles. You need to like children, enjoy the challenge of parenting, and feel comfortable accepting the child as your own, either temporarily or permanently.

You can get financial assistance

You need to have an income to care for yourself, but financial assistance is available for both foster and adoptive children - as well as training and support to help you.

Call **1-800-947-8074**
and let us help you learn
what you can do to create
a happier life for a child
who needs you.



Picture the child who needs you

O.K., so you're willing to think about it. The first step is the hardest. You have to make the call that will get you more details than this brochure offers. Do it now. Because once you see the child who needs your help, you'll be sold.

“But when we saw his picture, we said, ‘This is our child.’ We knew he was right for us.”

--Adoptive parent in LaCrosse



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Information also available at:

www.dhfs.state.wi.us/children/index.htm